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## **Grand Valley State would get added \$12.8 million under Senate funding plan**

**LANSING** – Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, announced today that under a Senate subcommittee-approved plan, Grand Valley State University would receive \$12.8 million more than what the governor proposed and almost that much over last year's funding.

"I really fought for more GVSU funding, and today we can see the results," Hardiman said. "GVSU is the lowest per-student funded university in Michigan, and this bill gives them a 22 percent increase. Given these tough budget times, I think this is a huge win for West Michigan."

Grand Valley State would receive \$69.6 million under the plan approved today by the Senate Appropriations higher education subcommittee. Hardiman sits on the subcommittee and voted for the overall higher education budget.

The plan would set up a per-student funding floor of \$3,750 for Michigan's public universities. In the previous fiscal year, Grand Valley received \$3,072 per student. Under the new plan, Grand Valley would receive \$3,759 per student.

The Senate subcommittee focused on results, taking into account the number of graduates and the placement of those graduates that the 15 universities turn out.

The subcommittee also was able to restore the Michigan tuition grant program, which supports private colleges and universities for the work they do educating Michigan's residents. The governor's proposal eliminated this funding but the Senate version reinstates 95 percent of that funding.

The Grand Rapids area has four private colleges, Calvin, Aquinas, Cornerstone and Davenport.

The appropriations bill, Senate Bill 273, now will be considered by the full Senate Appropriations Committee, on which Hardiman is also a member.

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